

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**DIGITAL CAMERA FOR AUTHENTICATING A DIGITAL VISUAL IMAGE**

5 A digital camera and method are disclosed for verifying
that a particular digitized visual image was produced by the
digital camera. A visual image is stored in a digital format
in the camera. A digital signature is generated for the image
utilizing the camera only in response to the storage of the
10 image in the particular camera which captured the image. The
digital signature associates the stored image with the camera.
The digital signature is stored only in the camera separately
from the image in the camera. The digital signature is
capable of being utilized only within the camera which
15 generated the signature. It is not accessible outside of the
particular camera which generated the signature. The
signature is inaccessible to devices other than the camera.
Subsequently, a digital visual image may be authenticated as
being produced by this digital camera utilizing the digital
20 signature stored in the digital camera. Only this digital
camera is capable of authenticating images which were produced
by this camera. Images produced by other digital cameras will
not be authenticated by this camera. A digital camera will
authenticate only unaltered images which were originally
25 captured by this particular digital camera.